



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Tara Finnigan
Public Information Manager
949-644-3035

Newport Beach Selects Interim Fire Chief

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. -- The city of Newport Beach has selected Steven E. Parker to serve as interim fire chief to lead its fire department while the city prepares for, and recruits, a new fire chief. The city's current fire chief, Steve Lewis, will retire on February 26.

Chief Parker has more than 32 years of experience in the fire service and has worked for five, full-service municipal fire departments. He spent the first three years of his career as a firefighter with the city of Buena Park. He then joined the City of Huntington Beach Fire Department in 1977 and over the next 24 years, was gradually promoted through the department's ranks to the position of battalion chief. He left Huntington Beach in 2001 to become fire chief for the city of Vernon. Chief Parker retired from Vernon in 2005.

Post-retirement, he has served as interim chief for two Southern California cities, Hermosa Beach and Costa Mesa. He also worked as a consultant to public agencies, assisting with the recruitment, evaluation and testing of fire service executives.

Chief Parker earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Irvine and a Master of Public Administration degree from the California State University, Long Beach. He was certified as a chief officer by the California State Board of Fire Services and has served in leadership capacities for numerous professional organizations including the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association, Orange County Fire Chiefs Association and the League of California Cities.

Chief Parker's first day in Newport Beach will be March 15. His agreement with Newport Beach is for a six-month period. He will earn \$99,508 during that period.